



# CATTLE GENETICS IMPROVEMENT INVESTMENT AREA

(Approved February 16, 2001)  
(Updated March 20, 2009)

This document provides eligible investments and is considered to be minimum standards by which an investment area is to be implemented, except for the **EPD requirements**, which are **standard** statewide per the amendment on July 18, 2003. Visit [http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/documents/epd\\_standards.doc](http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds/documents/epd_standards.doc) for the most up-to-date EPD guidelines.

Counties shall place a dollar cap on the maximum cost-share per producer of up to \$7,500 for the 12-month period from the execution date of the legal agreement between the administrator and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

Funded participants shall adhere to all local, state, and federal rules and regulations.

Questions concerning these guidelines should be directed to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627. Application for funds must be directed through the local County Agricultural Development Council(s).

## I. Eligible Cost Share Items

### A. Bull purchase or lease and semen purchases

*Bull leases – producer-to-producer or leasing company to producer [This program is not intended for funding the development of leasing programs that include utilizing funds to purchase a group of bulls for lease to local producers.]*

*We require that a bull lease includes possession of the bull and that it not be moved from farm to farm, in an attempt to alleviate any potential herd health problems.*

1. When selecting bulls/semen/lease for each of the six bull type categories, the following traits must be met to qualify:
  - a) **Balanced Trait**, the EPD requirements must be met for calving ease, milking ability, and either weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines.
  - b) **Carcass Merit** must meet minimum calving ease and carcass traits that are breed specific.
  - c) **Heifer Acceptable** will have to meet minimum calving ease and either weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines.
  - d) **High Productivity** must meet EPD requirements for minimum calving ease and milking ability, and minimum weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines.
  - e) **Low Maintenance** must meet minimum calving ease and maximum yearling weight and milking ability guidelines.

- f) **Terminal Cross**, the EPDs shall meet the calving ease and either weaning weight or yearling weight guidelines, depending on the targeted market.
2. When selecting for **dairy breeds**, we recommend using the Net Merit \$ score. This score is an economic index based on milk, fat, protein, somatic cell score and productive life. All sires must be in the upper 20% for their respective breeds.

**Prerequisites:**

- Expected progeny differences (EPDs) must be certified to meet the requirements set forth in the state EPD guidelines posted on the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy website. EPDs shall be certified by documentation from a breed association before funds may be reimbursed.
- A bull/semen/lease must qualify within one of the two bull type categories, selected by the producer at the time of application.
- All bulls purchased or leased through this program must pass a **Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE)** prior to receiving cost-share funds. The cost of a BSE should be negotiated between the buyer and seller and can be included in the total cost of the bull purchase.
- Ownership of bulls must be maintained for a minimum of two successive breeding seasons, not in the same year.
- Emergency early release is possible in case of death, illness, physical inability or transfer within immediate family and must be approved by the local administrative entity.

**B. Artificial Insemination**

1. Estrus synchronization
2. AI Procedure
3. AI School

**C. Heifer Purchases**

- All heifers purchased shall have been developed following the minimum guidelines outlined by the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's "Herd Builders" replacement heifer program

**Prerequisites**

- Applicant must become B.Q.A. certified before funding is received
- Applicant must submit Heifer Affidavit – Producer Report for Heifer Purchases
- Applicant must have suitable facilities and fencing in place, as determined by the administering agency, before funds are disbursed.
- Administrator shall ensure that the heifers are owned and maintained for a minimum of two successive breeding seasons.
- Emergency early release is possible in case of death, illness, physical inability or transfer within immediate family and must be approved by the local administrative entity.